

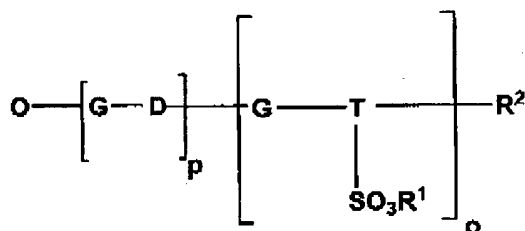
IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims in accordance with the following

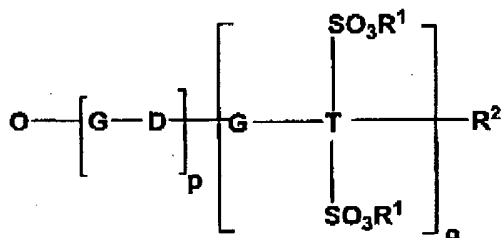
1. (Currently amended) Water-soluble and/or water-dispersible comb polymers consisting of a polymer main chain and polyester side-arms which contain ~~sulphone~~ sulphonate groups and are linked to said polymer main chain via ester groups.

2. (Currently amended) Comb polymers according to Claim 1, characterized in that their polymeric main chain is selected from the group consisting of polymeric aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or and aromatic polycarboxylic acids and salts or esters, thereof.

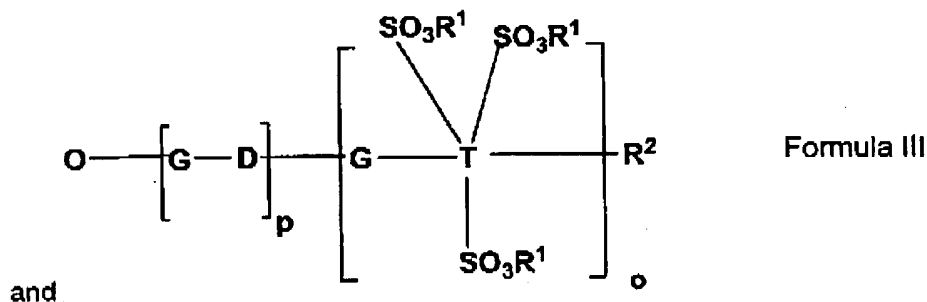
3. (Currently amended) The comb polymers according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polyester side arms are chosen from the group of polyesters consisting of the following generic structural formulae



Formula I



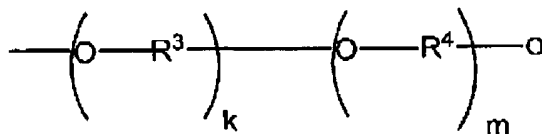
Formula II



~~where p and o are chosen such that average molecular weights of the main chain's repetitive units are between 1000 and 2,000,000 g/mol, wherein the sum of p + o is between 2 and 1000, and wherein~~

the polyester side arms according to formula I - III consist of:

G : chosen from the group of aromatic, aliphatic or cycloaliphatic organyl units having a carbon number of from C_6 to C_m and containing at least two terminal oxygen atoms, ~~or~~ and derivatives of a polyglycol of the form $\text{HO}-[\text{R}^3-\text{O}]_k-[\text{R}^4-\text{O}]_m-\text{H}$, corresponding to an organyl unit



where the radicals R^3 and R^4 are alkylene radicals having a carbon number of from C_2 - C_{22} , where the two radicals may ~~or may not~~ be identical;

where $k+m \geq 1$, ~~where k and m, can also be chosen such that the average molecular weights, referred to previously, of the main chain constituents used are achieved;~~

D : at least one aromatic, aliphatic or cycloaliphatic organyl unit having a carbon number of from C_2 to C_{22} and containing at least two terminal acyl groups, and where the at least one organyl units may ~~or may not be~~ identical.,

T : a radical selected from the group consisting of the sulphonated aromatic, aliphatic or cycloaliphatic organyl compounds containing at least two terminal acyl groups,

~~R¹ : can be~~ selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, monoalkylammonium, dialkylammonium, trialkylammonium or tetraalkylammonium, wherein the alkyl groups of the amines are C_1 to C_{22} -alkyl radicals and 0 to 3 hydroxyl groups;

R²: a molecular moiety selected from the group consisting of

- aromatic, aliphatic ~~and or~~ cycloaliphatic amino functions of C_1 to C_{22} ;
- a group of formula $-COOR^0$, wherein R^0 is an aromatic, aliphatic or cycloaliphatic monocarboxylic acid of C_1 to C_{200} ;
- aromatic, aliphatic or cycloaliphatic organyl radicals bridged via ether functions:

$(-O-R^9)$

- polyalkoxy compounds bridging via ether functions and having the formula, and

$-O-[R^7-O]_q[R^8-O]_r-Y$, wherein

the radicals R^7 and R^8 are alkyl radicals having a carbon number of from C_2 to C_{22} , where the two radicals may ~~or may not be~~ different, and further wherein the radical Y ~~can is~~ either be hydrogen or an aliphatic radical of C_1 - C_{22} , and wherein

$q+r \geq 1$;

- mono- or polyethoxylated sulphonated organyl radicals bridging via ether functions, or alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts thereof.

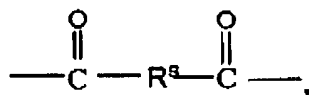
4. (Previously presented) Comb polymers according to Claim 1, characterized in that their average molecular weights are between 1000 and 2,000,000 g/mol.

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 2, wherein main chain is selected chosen from the a group of polymers consisting of polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid and salts and esters thereof, polymaleic acid, polymaleic anhydride, polyfumaric acid and polynorbomenic acid.

7. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 3, wherein the main chain's repetitive units are between 2000 - 100,000 g/mol.

8. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 3, wherein the organyl unit is a bifunctional radical of from C₂ to C₂₂



wherein R^s can be is aromatic or linear or cyclic; saturated or unsaturated;

9. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 3, wherein R² has the structural formula



10. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 4 having an average molecular weight between 1000 and 100,000 g/mol.

11. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 4 having an average molecular weight between 1000 - 30,000 g/mol.

12. (Previously presented) The comb polymers of claim 4 having an average molecular weight between 5000-15,000 g/mol.

13. (New)